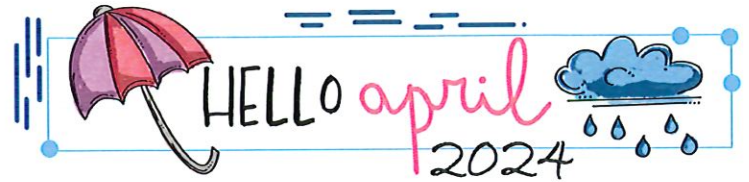


The St. Timothy Times

A newsletter for members and friends of
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Preschool & Childcare, ELCA
Hudson, Iowa, 50643
Volume 14:4 APRIL 2024



At our March meeting, the St. Timothy council set priorities for 2024. One, Strengthening children, youth, and intergenerational ministry, builds on a similar priority from last year, harnessing the momentum and excitement of the Youth and Education Board along with the curiosity and interests of congregation members. The other, Building Community through Hospitality, Fellowship, and Invitation gives us a new focus on relationships and how they are cultivated. This month, let's consider hospitality.

Hospitality is considered a spiritual gift. Some people have a special skill for making people feel welcome and comfortable. I'm sure you probably know of someone with this gift. We often think about things like offering a guest a comfortable seat or something to drink. People who host parties often put special thought into how their guests will experience their home. Is it clean and well-lit? Is there enough seating for everyone, or does it make more sense to clear space for people to stand and mingle?

Hospitality is the same and also a bit unique in a congregational setting. We need to think about how guests will know where to go and what to do. We need to consider what questions people might have the first time they come to a Lutheran worship service. Are instructions and expectations clear? Are people comfortable? Does everyone feel welcome regardless of age, gender, race, ability, background, makeup of family, etc.? Do they know where to find coffee!?

The questions around hospitality in a congregation are many, but the most important thing is that we are thoughtful and considerate of what others may want or need. Guests may have a different perspective than those who are settled into a familiar space or routines, just as they would when someone visits your home. As we consider hospitality our priority this year, how can we think in fresh ways about welcoming guests, members, preschool and childcare families, and even staff? How do we make sure everyone feels comfortable and cared for when they are a part of the St. Timothy community, whether for a few minutes or for a lifetime?

I invite you to join me in considering, having conversation, getting creative about our hospitality, and using your gifts to make sure others are feeling included and comfortable when we are together in our St. Timothy community. Happy Easter!

Coming Events

- April 1:** Office Closed
- April 3:** 2 PM Confirmation
5:30 PM Family Faith Night
- April 9:** Synod Day of Renewal
- April 10:** 6:30 PM Mutual Ministry at Amy Curley's
- April 11:** 5:30 PM Youth/Education Board Meeting
- April 11:** Mandatory P&CC Staff Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- April 14:** World Hunger Banks Due Back Today
10 AM Baby Book Club
10:15 AM Bible Study
- April 15:** 4:30 PM P&CC Board Meeting
- April 16:** 10 AM Ruth Circle
10:40 AM Preschool Chapel
- April 17:** 10 AM Hudson Ministerium at Zion Lutheran
2 PM Confirmation
- April 18:** Newsletter Deadline
- April 20:** 9 AM-1 PM Lions Club Bottle/Can Drive in St. Timothy's Parking Lot
- April 22:** 6:30 PM Council Meeting
- April 24:** Kindergarten Roundup at HCS
6:30 PM Food & Faith at LJ's, Waterloo

Weekly

- Monday:** 8 AM Men's Breakfast at Village Inn, Waterloo
- Tuesday:** 6-8 PM AA in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday:** 2 PM Confirmation
- Friday:** 9 AM Friday Quilters

Food & Faith

Food and Faith is back! We will gather Wednesday, April 24th, 6:30 p.m. at LJ's Neighborhood Bar and Grill in Waterloo. No need to RSVP. Invite a friend and join us for fellowship and conversation.





Clara Nehmer
 Preschool & Childcare Director

April 2024

The March schedule has been rather inconsistent, but enjoyable.

The first week of March brought a full week of care, with school being closed on Tuesday and Thursday because of the boys' state basketball games and Friday being a planned no school day.

It was a lot of fun watching the boys' games on the big screen TV in Fellowship Hall and listening to the school-aged children cheer them on brought a sense of pride to the event. I was very grateful for the staff members that picked up some extra hours that week, and for their creativity in keeping the group of 20-30 school-aged children busy. Luckily the weather was nice that week, so a couple of days school-aged children walked over to the city park to play during nap time. The walk and the change of scenery did everyone good.



The second week of March was much quieter. The center was closed the week of March 11 – 15 for spring break. Most of the staff members took vacations or stayed home, but a few people came in and did some deep cleaning of the kitchen and classrooms. Thanks to Bill Bird and Heaven's Best, all the carpet in the classrooms, hallways and fellowship hall were cleaned.

March 22nd brought snow, causing a late start for school and the center was closed for Good Friday on March 29, 2024.

In April, I will concentrate on hiring staff for our summer program. As of today, 65 children are registered for the summer program and plans to add 10 children from our waitlist to the program will have the center running at full capacity each day. It has amazed me at how quickly this program has grown in just 5 years.



The school-aged children and staff are very grateful for the use of the 2 small classrooms just off fellowship hall. It is amazing to see all the different activities that occur in such a small space. The foosball table is always popular, the younger girls love having a doll house, it is nice to have a place for all the Lego building to occur, and the older children love the ability to just quietly hang out. The purchase of some storage cabinets, and the use of the back classroom has helped to keep these, and other items organized.

Please spread the word that there are 3 positions that need to be filled. We need an additional kitchen staff member, either full-time or part-time. Plus, we have 1 full time position available in our preschool program. Additionally, we need to hire either 1 full-time or 2 part-time individuals to work during the summer. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me at preschool@sttimothyhudson.org or 319 988 3633.

Blessing this Easter Season,
 ~Clara Nehmer



Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls is an annual fundraiser for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank held on March 22, 2024. A number of St. Timothy members were in attendance to support the cause. A special shout out to Lola Kapaun who helps to coordinate table decorations and auction items. Together we help to support the efforts of the Food Bank to distribute nutritious food and grocery products to organizations and programs that help families and individuals with food assistance. *Pictures by Pastor Dena Gable*



Council Notes

The St. Tim's Council met on Monday, March 18 at 6:30. There were several things that were discussed. The council will be meeting on the third Monday of the month for the foreseeable future, with adjustments being made as needed.

The main business of the meeting was determining our priorities for 2024. Two priorities were decided upon:

- 1) Community building through hospitality, fellowship, and invitation and
- 2) Strengthening our youth, children, and intergenerational ministry.

We also approved an update to the job description for the accompanist position and celebrated that we are able to move forward on the first two phases of the new sound system!

~ Tiffany Ahrens



Global Barnyards and Piggy Banks

Thank you to all who participated in our World Hunger Lenten project. All money collected will help feed hungry people, improve their lives and provide education through our partnership with the ELCA World Hunger program.

Please return your barn or pig bank to the church office by or before April 14.

Thank you for your generosity!

Lutheran World Relief



Pastors Dena and Lee met with Pastor Tim Krick from Lutheran World Relief to learn more about the ways they are supporting people in need around the globe.

80th Birthday Celebration

St. Timothy celebrated Kathy Holst's 80th birthday with her during the Fellowship hour on March 17.



A cake was served by the Stewardship/Outreach Committee in her honor.

Happy Birthday Kathy, many blessings to you in the years ahead!

Picture by Joyce King

Lions Club Can Drive

We will once again be hosting the Lions Club Can and Bottle Drive in our parking lot on April 20th from 9am-1pm. Everyone is invited to help sort and bag items. Any money the club raises goes to support the Hudson Community.

Family Faith Night/Lenten Service

Our March Family Faith Night was focused on service. We worked with all of our church family to pack relief kits for disaster victims around the world.

Our next Family Faith Night will be April 3, where we will talk about planting seeds. We will have a special guest helping us plant some seeds, and we will have a practice for special music the following Sunday. We hope you can join us!

Pictures by Tiffany Ahrens and Pastor Dena Gable



~ Tiffany Ahrens



Sound System Update

Thanks to your amazing generosity we are moving forward with phases 1 and 2 of the Audio-Visual system upgrades. Installation of the new system should begin within the next 3-6 weeks. The Tech team is grateful for your enthusiasm and support for this project and for the generous donations that have made it possible for us to move quickly. We will continue to work toward our overall fundraising goal and the completion of the project with phase 3. Thank you!

St. Timothy is seeking an accompanist

2-3 Sundays per month

9 a.m. worship

More information at

<https://www.sttimothyhudson.org/about-5>



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ELCA**

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Return Service Requested

Sunday Schedule:

Worship @ 9:00 a.m. w/children's
messages and weekly communion

Fellowship for all ages @ 10:00

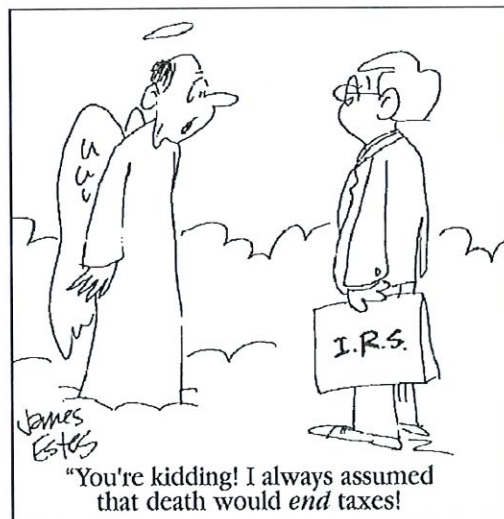
**Online Facebook Live St. Timothy Lutheran
Church Hudson Iowa @ 9 a.m.**



Our Mission:

All in God's Name—

Loving, Serving, Welcoming



**Laughter is Good for the Soul,
A Monthly Church Chuckle**